

WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA

110 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002
(202) 544-8045

TO: *Charlotte Capps*

FROM: Joe Eldridge, Bill Brown, Jo Marie Griesgraber

*Present at the meeting with
Mrs. Patt Derian on Tuesday,
June 28, at 10:00 A.M.*

- 1) Dr. Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen*
- 2) Dr. Mario de Carril*
- 3) Jo Marie Griesgraber*
w/w OYA

*Kim Rogers
Hargrave*

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

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TO: The Deputy Secretary
FROM: ARA - Terence A. Todman
SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Argentine Senator Solari Yrigoyen - Tuesday, June 28, at 2:30 pm

PARTICIPANTS

US

The Deputy Secretary
Fernando E. Rondon, ARA/ECA
(notetaker)
Donald F. Barnes, Interpreter

ARGENTINA

Senator Hipolito SOLARI
YRIGOYEN
PHONETIC: soLAHree
eereeGOzhen
ADDRESSED: Senator

KEY ISSUES

1. Issue - Human Rights

U.S. Objectives: The purpose of the meeting is to underline our continuing concern for human rights in Argentina. Senator Kennedy urged you to receive Senator Solari Yrigoyen, who was expelled recently from Argentina after being held for eight months without charges.

Solari Yrigoyen's Objectives: The Senator's principal interest will be to brief you on the situation in Argentina, which he feels could not be much worse. While he holds no brief for the terrorists, whose actions he condemns readily, he is opposed strongly to the government's use of illegal counterviolence.

Essential Factors: Solari Yrigoyen is in the left wing of the Democratic Radical Party of Argentina; he is known as a dedicated, courageous advocate of human rights. This advocacy led him to criticize publicly the Argentine government in 1972 after a number of prisoners accused of terrorism were killed at Trelew Prison following a prison

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escape. The Army seems to have tried to get even with Solari Yrigoyen by kidnapping him in September 1976. Another Radical figure, Mario Amaya, was kidnapped at the same time. The ensuing uproar forced the Army to acknowledge it was holding Solari and Amaya, although the latter soon died reportedly of torture. Solari Yrigoyen was better able to withstand the treatment inflicted upon him and was expelled to Venezuela in May. Solari Yrigoyen wanted to go to France, which offered employment, but the Argentine government reportedly threatened to harm his children if he accepted exile in France. A Washington-based human rights organization (the Washington Office on Latin America) invited Solari Yrigoyen to the United States and has arranged several meetings for him with Members of Congress. He is also meeting with officers of ARA, D/HA and the NSC.

POINTS TO BE MADE:

-- We are very pleased to welcome you to the United States and relieved that you are out of prison.

-- We very much hope your children will be able to join you soon.

-- Our readiness to welcome you is one of what I hope are many signs of our support for those who suffer injustice.

-- This Administration is dedicated to the advancement of human rights in the world. The nature of our relationship with other countries will depend to a great extent on the human rights situation in each country.

-- Your government knows how we feel about this subject and what effect it will have on our relations.

-- I want to assure you that we will do all we can responsibly to promote the cause we both believe in.

Attachment:

Biographic Information

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Drafted: ARA/ECA:FERondon:jc
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Hipolito SOLARI YRIGOYEN (Phonetic soLAHree eereeeGOzhen)

A lawyer, journalist, and Senator from 1973 until the coup in 1976, Solari Yrigoyen went into exile in Venezuela in May 1977, following his release from detention. He had been held without charges since August 1976 under the state of siege.

Solari Yrigoyen and a fellow Radical politician, Deputy Mario Amaya, were abducted separately by the Army in August 1976. (Both were apparently picked up because they criticized the gunning down of several prisoners in 1972 at a prison in Trelew, Argentina. The security forces claimed that the Trelew prisoners tried to escape; others said the prisoners were killed in retaliation for an earlier escape of terrorist leaders to Chile.) An international outcry followed the disappearance of Solari Yrigoyen and Amaya; the Army finally admitted they were under detention. In October Amaya died; Solari Yrigoyen claims it was the direct result of torture. Finally in May, Solari Yrigoyen was expelled to Venezuela. He had hoped to go to France but the Argentine government reportedly told him that his children would be harmed if he went there.

Solari Yrigoyen has had a lifelong dedication to human rights and democracy. This has led to rightist attempts on his life. In 1973 during Juan Peron's presidency, his car was blown up. He underwent six surgical operations as a result of injuries suffered in the bombing. His home was bombed in 1975 under Mrs. Peron's regime; he escaped unharmed.

American Embassy officers who know him describe him as a man of great courage and principle - if somewhat quixotic.

Solari Yrigoyen is 43-years-old, married and has four children. He does not speak English.

June 1977

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22 June 1977

DR HIPOLITO SOLARI YRIGOYEN

Dr. Solari Yrigoyen is a prominent leader of the Union Civica Radical, Argentina's largest organized political party which is at the head of democratic opposition to the ruling military junta of General Videla. A national senator during the Peronist years (1973 - 1976) he was at that time vice-president of the minority block in the National Senate and a member of important senatorial committees. His legislative activity was extensive and successful.

Throughout his professional and political career Dr. Solari Yrigoyen has defended the cause of democracy and human rights in every forum. As a result, in 1973, during the presidency of Juan Peron, his car was blown up. He underwent six surgical operations as a result of injuries suffered in the bombing. In 1975, during the presidency of Isabel Peron, his home was bombed while he was asleep in bed. Amazingly, he was unharmed. In August 1976 he was incarcerated and brutally tortured by military forces under control of the present Argentine government of General Videla. His colleague, Senator Amaya who was incarcerated with him, died in prison.

Dr. Solari Yrigoyen was never charged with a crime by the Argentine government. He was finally freed and expelled from Argentina in May 1977. This was done after intense public pressure was put upon the Argentine government by democratic governments throughout the world. Most effective were the public, unanimous and reiterated resolutions of the Venezuela legislature. American Congress persons also expressed interest in his case.

Dr. Solari Yrigoyen is a lawyer, journalist and a writer of note. He has been an editor of La Razon, one of the largest newspapers in the country. He has written numerous articles for journals and newspapers in his country and abroad. He has four books on current Argentine problems. He has been a lawyer for democratic unions. He has travelled widely in five continents pursuing his humanitarian and political interests. Dr. Solari Yrigoyen's ties with his party run deep: his mother's uncle was Argentina's President Hipolito Yrigoyen, the first Argentine president elected by his party the Union Civica Radical in the early twentieth century.

Today, Dr. Solari Yrigoyen, who is 43 years old, lives in exile in Caracas, Venezuela with his wife Teresa. They are separated from their four children: Hipolito, Patricio, Conrado, who as yet have not been able to leave Argentina.

Dr. Solari Yrigoyen is a member in good standing of the national committee of the Union Civica Radical, and had he been in Buenos Aires he would have signed the June 7 document of his party which calls for democracy and the respect for human values in his country, Argentina.

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HA County Files 1977

Box 1

Lat Am - Argentina - 1977

REPRODUCTION
① As of May, was torture still being practiced on ~~the~~ political prisoners? What evidence do you have for that assertion?

② Do political prisoners have access to family and attorneys?

③ What are the conditions in the jails?

④ There are some who argue that we should not totally end military aid and arms sales to the junta so as not to ~~lose~~ diminish our ~~the~~ influence ~~on~~ with Argentine armed forces to ~~encourage~~ encourage them toward greater respect for human rights. What is your view? Should we provide non-lethal equipment to the Argentine military?

⑤ There are those who argue that additional sanctions, such as ~~total~~ denial ~~of~~ ~~further reduction~~ of all arms sales would strengthen the hand of the hardliners against Videla, who is labelled a moderate who desires to move the country toward democratic principles. What